

511 East Six Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
January 27, 2011

Candidate Selection Committee
c/o Susan Fox, Executive Director
Legislative Services Division
State of Montana
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Members of the Candidate Selection Committee:

After considerable thought I have decided to submit this letter and the attached resume to you for the position of Commissioner of Political Practices. I believe that I am uniquely qualified for this job as my resume shows. Here are my responses to your questions:

1. I have studied the Montana Codes Annotated and specifically 13-37-108 and have no problem in complying with all five parts.
2. When I was Executive Secretary to the Montana Board of Public Education I wrote some legislation, a significant amount of administrative rules and the majority of findings of fact conclusions of law on the hearings that the board held. I have since continued to write school board policies and administrative rules.
3. I have never been party to a complaint filed with the COPP.
4. I was an unsuccessful candidate for the Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2008. With regard to ballot initiatives I have signed petitions and gone to rallies.
5. I am currently a member of the Montana Democratic Women's Club and the Lewis and Clark Democratic Action Committee. Of course, I will resign from both of these groups if chosen for the position. As a former debate coach, I taught my students to look at the merits of the arguments and the evidence. Since that time I have tried to do the same when I was involved in hearings for the Board of Public Education and on more current issues. I believe I would bring impartiality to the decisions I would render.
6. I believe that the current candidate contribution limits are appropriate. I know that the cost of advertising continues to escalate, but I think in Montana citizens contribute to the candidates they care about and that should be sufficient.
7. While I have testified before legislative committees many times, neither I nor any member of my family has been a lobbyist.
8. I would have to study the regulations that are currently in place on lobbyist activities before I could make an appropriate response to this question.

I believe that my breadth and depth of experience, running a small state agency, writing a variety of legal documents, working with lawyers and public policy leaders does uniquely qualify me for this position. I shall be glad to furnish references on request or any additional information you may request. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Claudette Morton, Ed.D.